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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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### DEPARTMENT OF LAW

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

## DEPARTMENT OF LAW.

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### FACULTY.

JOHN W. ABERCROMBIE, LL. D., D. C. L.,

President of the University.

W. S. THORINGTON, LL. D., Dean,\*

Professor of Law.

ORMOND SOMERVILLE, A. M., LL. B.,

Professor of Law.

C. V. HERREN,

Librarian.

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### REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION.

Any person of good moral character is at liberty to matriculate in the department of Law, and have a seat assigned him for attendance upon the lectures and other exercises, subject to the following requirements. If he intends to become a candidate for a degree at the end of his course, he must be at least eighteen years of age when he matriculates, and must have such high school training as is required for admission to the Freshman class of the Academic Department. Other students, before being admitted, must pass such examinations in English, United States History, and General History, as shall satisfy the Faculty that their educational attainments are such as will justify their entering upon legal studies.

### COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

The design of this school is to acquaint the student with the fundamental principles of English and American Law.

The instruction is as thorough as possible, and is given partly through text-books and illustrative cases, and partly through lectures, with careful examinations, especial care being taken

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\*Formerly Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama.

to teach the student to think for himself and to rely upon reason and principle rather than upon memory. The law has become so widened in its scope, so complex in the application of its principles, so nice and yet so important in its distinctions, and so numerous and conflicting are the authorities, that it is scarcely practicable for the student to master its most important phases in the office of a busy lawyer; and the conviction among prominent law teachers and practitioners is fixed that no student should essay the practice of law who has not spent at least two years in close and systematic study in a school of law. Many of the states, including Alabama, are now committed to the policy of a prescribed period of study, varying from eighteen months to two years before examination for license. By the new Code of Alabama, vol. II, sec. 2972 et seq., (operative May 1, 1908,) a Board of Examiners is provided for, and eighteen months' study of law is required before an application for examination for license can be made.

The course is designed to occupy the student two years, and will comprise the following subjects:

#### FIRST YEAR.

1. The Law of Persons: Personal Property (including Sales); Domestic Relations. Text-books: Walker's American Law; Tiffany on Persons and Domestic Relations; Benjamin's Principles of Sales.
2. The Law of Contracts. Text-book: Clark on Contracts. (Lectures on Agency).
3. The Law of Torts: Bailments and Carriers. Text-books: Bigelow on Torts; Van Zile on Bailments and Carriers.
4. Constitutional and International Law. Text-books: Selected parts of Black's Constitutional Law; Wilson and Tucker's International Law.
5. Mercantile Law. Text-book: Norton on Notes and Bills, 3rd edition. Lectures on Partnership and Insurance Law.

#### SECOND YEAR.

1. The Law of Evidence; Pleading and Practice in Civil Cases. Text-books: Shipman's Common Law Pleadings; Greenleaf on Evidence, Volume 1, 16th edition.

2. The Law of Corporations. Text-book: Clark on Corporations.

3. The Law of Real Estate. Text-book: Tiedeman on Real Property.

4. Equity Jurisprudence and Procedure. Text-books: Bispham's Principles of Equity; Mitford and Tyler's Pleading and Practice in Equity.

5. The Law of Crimes and Punishments. Text-books: Clark's Criminal Law; Criminal Code.

The Code of Alabama and leading cases will be studied in connection with each year's course.

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#### GENERAL INFORMATION.

Students should present themselves punctually at the opening of the session. The loss of a few lectures at the beginning may prove to be a serious embarrassment to subsequent progress. Students, however, will be received at any time during the college year, and, as evidence of satisfactory attainments in any department or complete subject therein, a certificate of advancement may be awarded. Applicants who may be able to stand a satisfactory examination at the opening of a session upon the subjects prescribed for the first year, and who possess the other qualifications herein prescribed, will be permitted to enter at once upon the second year's course as candidates for a degree. A deposit of ten dollars is required to be made, before examination, by each applicant for advanced standing, to be applied to the law library fund.

The Faculty are frequently asked whether it is desirable to enter upon the study of law before entering school here. It is their opinion that the students who have read at least the Commentaries of Blackstone make better advancement than those who have no knowledge of the principles of law before entering.

Students in this department are subject to the same discipline as the academic students.

This department aims at giving the student careful and thorough instruction in the elementary principles of law, and to familiarize him with the rules and forms of practice, thus

equipping him at the outset for the pursuit of business and for the forum. Lectures will be delivered during the course by the professors, and by experienced jurists and lawyers of the State, upon the various branches of the law.

A law library is provided in the lecture rooms, which are open during the entire day for the use of law students. The foundation of this library was laid by withdrawing from the general library such books of law and literature as were appropriate to it, and by a donation by the state legislature, from year to year, of elementary works and state reports.

An opportunity for the practical application of the student's legal acquirements will be offered by a system of **Moor Courts**, which will be presided over by one of the professors of the department, with an occasional substitution of some eminent attorney in full practice.

**THE KENT CLUB** and the **H. M. SOMERVILLE CLUB** are debating societies organized and maintained among the law students. They meet weekly and discuss questions of general and special interest to the legal profession, thereby supplementing the work of the **Moor Courts**.

Prominent members of the Bench and Bar of the State deliver lectures, from time to time, to the law classes, on invitation of the law faculty.

Under the immediate supervision of the professors, each student is required to prepare written opinions on supposed cases; to devise and institute remedies by suit; to conduct suits at law and in equity, from the inception through all their stages; drawing all the forms from the summons and complaint to and including the final process, with all the returns of the officers of court; to draw wills, conveyances, and other assurances; and, in short, to perform most of the functions of a practicing lawyer. Students may organize among themselves club courts for the purpose of discussing legal questions and exercising themselves in forensic oratory.

Any one pursuing the course of Law is allowed, free of charge, to take one course in each of two academic schools of the University. The schools of English, of History and Political Economy, and of ancient and modern languages, furnish inviting fields to the professional student, whilst the time prescribed for the entire course will afford opportunity to the diligent student for enjoying them. Law students have the use

of the University library, and are permitted to become members of the literary societies of the University.

The degree of Bachelor of Laws (LL. B.) will be conferred upon those only who have completed the entire course of study in this department, and have sustained a satisfactory written examination in the presence of the Faculty; or who, after standing a satisfactory examination on the first year's work, have entered upon and completed the second year's studies and passed a satisfactory examination thereon. All candidates for graduation must matriculate at or before the beginning of the Senior year. Graduates of this department are entitled to "license to practice law in all the courts both of law and equity in the State" without examination.

The superior advantages to be derived from being educated in the state of the student's intended residence are too frequently overlooked, until learned in mature years, when too late. To no one does this truth apply with so much force as the young law student. The acquaintances formed and the friendships cemented by him during a university course pursued in his own state are capable of the most pleasant and profitable utilization. The course of study, however, is well adapted to the system of practice prevailing in most of the states.

It is the aim of the Faculty to impart instruction which will fit young men for the active duties of the office and the court house; and, at the same time to impress upon them, in the lecture room and in private, an exalted idea of professional ethics, without which a knowledge of law is dangerous to the individual and to the state.

The Faculty urge that young men entering the Law School take the full two years' course. If it is their purpose to make the law their life work, it is important to lay the foundation as deep and broad as possible, and it is a well known fact that young men who take the entire two years' course here are almost invariably better equipped when they graduate, than those who study one year at home, and then take only the Senior course in the Law School.

A special statute authorizes the graduates of this department to be admitted, on motion, to practice in all the courts of Alabama.



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